

NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

Vol. 3 No. 18



Susannah Wesley Home and the Center

BY C. MATSUDA

One Saturday morning, early in the month of September, I got together with Ronald Higashi, Executive Director of the Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC). It was a very humid day and I was very glad to get into an air-conditioned office. The reason for my visit was to learn a little about the Center, its history and services to the community. The Honolulu Coin Club has been using the SWCC facilities as a meeting place and for coin shows, and I felt that the members of HCC should learn something about the Center.

Ron Higashi showed me a lot of old photos of the Center, some dating back as early as the 1900s. According to the information about the Center, Susannah Wesley was named after the mother of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church in the 17th century. In Hawaii, the Center started as a National Methodist Women's Home Missionary Society in 1899. At that time, a Miss Holbrook was sent as a missionary to work with Japanese women through house-to-house visitations. She organized English and sewing classes for them.

In 1903, Susannah Wesley became a home for girls, mostly children of the plantation workers, who were unable to care for their own while working during the day. The Susannah Wesley Home as it was called, moved to its present site on Kaili Street in Kalihi in 1919, and through the efforts of its Board of Directors, secured a new building that subsequently accommodated hundreds of girls of various ethnic backgrounds and ages.

I told Ron that I remembered those wooden buildings and tall picket fences as a child. This was during the late 40's that

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I passed by the homes on my way to a Saturday matinee at the old Kalihi Theater (now Salvation Army Thrift Shop on King Street in Kalihi). There were no sidewalks (only dirt paths) outside those picket fences and I remember that we had to be very careful while passing there because of the kiawe tree thorns which poked our bare feet. Those trees still remain around the Center today and Ron told me that the trees help mark the tracing of the location of how the old building stood once upon a time.

In 1956, The Susannah Wesley Home became a treatment center for young children with serious emotional and behavioral problems, but with the difficulty of funding and finding professional workers, it closed after less than a year of operation.

The new Susannah Wesley Community Center as known today was formed in 1957. It started as a nursery school, playground, after-school club for children and English classes for adults. The "War on Poverty" government funding program enabled SWCC to start an "Outreach Services" program. A new building was dedicated in May, 1967 and the Center has helped develop many new community service programs, such as projects for the elderly, Outreach to Youth Club, Headstart classes, associated mothers' classes, social services for immigrants, parent education program called "Family Power", just to name a few. The Susannah Wesley Community Center is an incorporated, private, non-profit social agency, and its primary source of funding is the Aloha United Way, with funds from the Methodist Church, federal and state governments, and private trusts and foundations.

So, next time when you're contributing to a worthy cause, keep Susannah Wesley Community Center in mind because they make great things happen in our community. I would like to thank Ronald Higashi and his staff at Susannah Wesley for all the help given to the Honolulu Coin Club and me the past years and the interesting information about the Center for this story.



Talking Story

BY IRVING KAM



During the past two years or so, we have all witnessed a gradual increase in interest for Hawaii tokens and memorabilia. Whether it's because of the complexities of coin grading with a price structure that seemingly leaves little or no room for error, or a genuine love affair for things Hawaiian, more and more people are actively entering this area of collecting. A cyclical temporary phase like a passing fancy perhaps, but none the less, a few very serious collectors will evolve.

Not too many years ago when this writer first started taking a better look at Hawaiiana, I remember quite a few scarce tokens that I have never seen offered for sale since, I remember buying almost everything at various percentages under catalog, and I remember one of two names that was always mentioned while on a subject, that of John Kaukali. We ran into each other last month at a rummage sale and agreed to meet later to discuss the hobby. The shady porch of the Moiliili Community Center Thrift Shop was not only appropriate but a soothingly mellow way to spend a few Sunday afternoon hours.

Between the discourse of our recent finds, I discovered John started collecting U.S. silver coins in 1966 but the attraction was mainly because of the intrinsic value more than anything else. Being that his office at the Oahu Community Correctional Center was near the Pacific Coin Shop, this is where he spent all of his lunch hours. One day a customer approached the shop's owner, Mr. Hashimoto, wanting to trade his Hawaii accumulation for U.S. commemorative halves. After the deal was completed, John traded his coins (about \$400 face) for part of the collection which eventually formed the foundation for his own aggregation of local good fols. Two of the better pieces included an 1887 Grove Ranch Plantation (TE-17) which was a sugar ranch on Maui, and the misspelled Oahu Bakery (TB-15A). Now hopelessly obsessed, he aggressively traveled the many routes seeking out any new additions. Mail bids were a particularly productive source for John, yielding an Elks Convention (MF-2), Leilehua High School (TL-62), Leilehua School Schofield (TL-63), Kaimuki Bakery (TB-6) and recently a 64 mm Statehood Medal (MS-1A). All at reasonably decent prices. It has gotten increasingly difficult to be successful as of late because of the competition from the many specialized collectors. People who collect only military, Masonic, dairy, topical, and so on. Hawaii's geographical location is also a hinderance and besides, less and less good material is being offered. Yet one never knows and John keeps trying. He also makes the rounds like the rest of the other collectors. Coin and stamp shows, the bottle show where he has a table, bid boards, coin shops, and so forth. He has gone downtown to the Department of Education to purchase school lunch tokens when they were recalled and for sale. Personally, he is the one I'm most likely to bump into at a rummage sale or bazaar thrift shop. I think for the moment, we greet each other with mixed emotions while eyeing what one another is holding in our hands. A little friendly competition maybe but it's all part of the game.

While scanning the pages of the Donald Medcalf-Ronald Russell "Hawaiian Money Standard Catalog", I was amazed at the in-depth knowledge John possesses for tokens, major die varieties, misspellings, different finishes, different metals, different denominations, and tokens as yet not covered in the book. And so much more. He corresponds very frequently, both

here and on the mainland, gathering information on availability, mintages, existence, other issues, etc. He goes to see people and old establishments as well as the Archives to confirm or quell a maverick. Going through the book, he easily points out some he's seen just once in all these years, some he's never seen, some that even then were undervalued, and the ones that got away. His involvement in the book included the proofreading, and many plate tokens illustrated at the top of the pages are from his collection. Working on the book got him even more entrenched in the cultural history of Hawaii and the collecting of Hawaiiana. Fragments of an era that once was and can be no more.

At his house, I am drawn to the wonderful grouping of vintage Hawaii bottles of every description. The gleam of the different sized glass containers is fascinating to the eye. His first bottle was bought from an antique shop on a trip home to Hilo while on family business. During a slump when John could not find any new tokens, he concentrated on digging and assembling a varied mixture of which he is satisfied. Yet adding that just like anything else, more is better. On the opposite side of the bottles I discover what I had secretly wanted to see, the accumulation of old Hawaiian wooden hangers I had heard about a while back. I suspect a lot of us have a few dozen but certainly not in numbers such as this. Storage may present a problem and he thinks there's about eight hard core hanger collectors to date. Under this lies boxes and boxes of books, still banks, key chains, matchbooks, pin backs, patches, and the like, all with a Hawaii theme. Like I said earlier, what a mellow way to spend a few Sunday afternoon hours.

While going around the shops and at his table during the bottle show, John sees more new faces all the time. So for the novice collector or for someone considering this hobby, he advises purchasing a copy of the Medcalf-Russell publication first. Try to make a plan as to how far they want to go and to learn what's available. Decide how much they will be spending, keeping in mind that the prices listed are eight years old and should be used only as a guide, just as the book states. Even if specializing in one or two areas, the information is always valid and John wished he had something to follow when he started.

The time spent not collecting are few and is utilized around the house. He's put off little chores too often in pursuit of new additions. He also enjoys football and attends high school games when the Kamehameha Schools are playing. The future is full of questions but he'll still be collecting. Maybe segregate and categorize the different things that have accumulated in the boxes or where ever there was room. Maybe sell some duplicates or the other related items, putting more emphasis on the dealing aspect. One thing is for certain though, I expect to see him at those little out-of-the-way rummage sales holding some piece of Hawaii history in his hands.

The years have relinquished so much knowledge to John and I thank him for sharing it so effortlessly. I learned in that short few hours what maybe would have taken a few years. With all the enthusiasts vying for the limited amount of fresh material, that extra edge will indeed come in handy throughout a lifetime of collecting. Mahalo, John.

Aloha! Pau.

HONOLULU COIN CLUB

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Susannah Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street, 7:30 p.m. Gregory Hunt, president.



THE MAUI COUNTY FAIR AND TOKEN

BY C. MATSUDA

While working at the Maui Money Show at the Marriott Hotel last August with Marion Kendrick and Gregory Hunt, we had a chance to really see the Island of Maui. Some interesting people we visited were John Duey, who is in the flower business up in Iao Valley in West Maui, and Frank Martin, a retired school teacher from Lahainalua School, who are both members of the Maui Coin Club. Besides collecting coins, Frank Martin collects antique automobiles and does beautiful woodwork. We also visited Ernest Leong at the swap meet at Kihei in West Maui and went to his home and saw his beautiful collection of poi pounders. He has a nice collection of bottles that he dug up on Maui, beside other items of Hawaiian.

Another interesting part of our trip was when Greg Hunt, like a good detective, contacted Alfred Souza, President of the Maui County Fair. Greg made arrangements for us to meet Souza on Tuesday when he went to his office at the Kahului Fairgrounds. I thought this was a good opportunity to write a story about the County Fair and information on the Maui County Fair token.

Greg had to fly back to Honolulu on Sunday and since Monday was a holiday (Labor Day), Marion and I met Mr. Souza in his office at the Fairgrounds on Tuesday. Mr. Souza is a tall, good looking, husky man with hair turning gray along the sides of his head. With his low tone of voice, he greeted us and gave us a few items of the fair. Souza told us that the fair will be celebrating the 65th anniversary in 1987. They are planning to make the 65th a special fair. Souza also told us that the Maui County Fair is the oldest fair in the Hawaiian Islands. According to the fair history, the Maui County Fair was inspired in a meeting held on March 16, 1916. Representatives from many organizations attended the meeting and formed to finalize the various exhibitions. The first fair was held at the Wailuku baseball park and opened on Thursday, November 30, 1916. The fair was a success and a meeting was held in 1917 to form a permanent association. They also joined forces with the Racing Association, adopted a Constitution and by-laws and elected the first board of directors. When World War I came along in 1917 and the U.S. entered the war, they decided not to hold the fair. They started to look for a permanent site for the fair and found that Kahului was their best choice.

In 1918, it was decided to secure the Puunene Avenue grounds and new buildings were erected. The second fair opened in October, 1918. Through hard work and effort, the fair has been around for more than a half century since that very first fair in 1916.

It is interesting to know that the Maui County Fair had an Amusement token in the early days. Mr. Souza told me that the token was given to the school children, who used them to go into the Maui County Fair with free admission. The token is listed in the standard catalog, *Hawaiian Money*, by Donald Metcalf and Ronald Russell, under Amusement tokens. It is round, 21mm, brass, and Maui County Fair written on the obverse and reverse (TA-17).

If you'd like to attend the Maui County Fair in 1987, it will be held, as always, in the second week of October and opens

on a Thursday and runs through the weekend. It is a real family fun enjoyment. Alfred Souza said that all of Maui comes out to the fair, once a year.

I would like to say Mahalo to Mr. Alfred Souza for that interesting conversation and information on the Maui County Fair and hope to see the fair next year. Maui No Ka Oi!



A TOUCH OF HAWAIIANA

DUKE PAOA KAHANAMOKU

1890 - 1968

BY GARY LAU

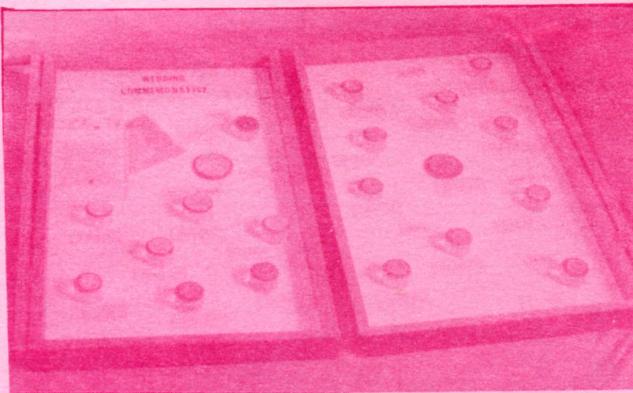


1980 HSNA Medal—Bronze & Silver

1980 Wooden Nickel

The "Ambassador to Hawaii", Duke Kahanamoku was one of the most famous men in the history of Hawaii. Duke gained Hawaii as much fame as any one man by his individual feats in a swimming career that spanned over 20 years. Born in Haleakala, Maui, he attended schools on Oahu until his graduation from the Kamehameha School for Boys. In 1912, he swept the swimming events at the Stockholm Olympics setting a new world record for the 100 meters. During that same year, he again broke the record at a meet in Hamburg. He competed in meets during 1916 and broke more records with his distinctive "Hawaiian Crawl". Because of the cancellation of the 1916 Olympics due to the war, Duke toured the U.S. raising money for the Red Cross. In 1920, at the Antwerp Olympics, he again beat his 100 meter record making the course in one minute flat. In 1922, he began a Hollywood film career playing all racial roles except Hawaiians. He competed again at the 1924 Paris Olympics but lost to a man named Johnny Weismuller, who set a new record of 59 seconds.

Duke became a national hero in 1925 when, on a surfboard, he rescued 8 men from a capsized boat off Newport Beach, CA. After competing again in the 1928 Olympics he quit acting and returned to Hawaii in 1929. In 1932, he failed to win a spot on the U.S. Swim Team, but won one of the U.S. Water Polo Team, thus appearing in 5 Olympic competitions. He returned once again to Hawaii where he was elected sheriff in 1934, a post that he held until it was abolished in 1961; he was then appointed official city greeter. In 1965, he was selected as a charter member of the Swimming Hall of Fame and became one of 26 all-time sports champions in 1967, the year after he was named to the first Surfing Hall of Fame. Very few medals depict this great man, but those that do truly stand out for a man who achieved excellence in all he did.



ASSEMBLING AN EXHIBIT

BY CRANE SAITO

Whatever the size of your collection, no matter how large or small, old or new, common coins or scarce ones, you should take the opportunity to take a few of them out of "mothballs" and create your own individual display that you can "show off" to the public. Not only will you have the pride and joy of having others marvel at your coins but your display may draw more interest than the more sophisticated ones.

Your first reaction might be "Oh, I couldn't display any of my coins, they're too common! Others can compete, not me."

You need not be afraid, however, because your so-called "common" collection might be just what someone wants to look at. Your display will add to the completeness of the coin show.

After you have decided upon what you want to display, the next step is to plan its layout. People will be looking at your display, and you want it to look good. To make your display interesting, you must have:

1. Numismatic information conveyed to the viewer. What is your display about? What is the history of what you are displaying? What are the mintages? Who designed it? Why is it an important coin or medal?

2. Layout, eye-appeal: Is it centered? Is it simple enough? Are the color contrasts complementary to the rest of the display?

3. Comparative: Condition and color of the coins, completeness of your collection, value, and scarcity. Don't worry about how rare or valuable your display is, however. You can have a top-notch display without going broke. Your first priority in planning a display should be the protection of your coins. If the coins must be displayed directly on the background or on a stand, make sure the surface will not harm the coins.

Keeping this in mind, here are some materials that are available at any business supply store or department store which you can use:

Construction paper can be used for the background, lettering, and is available in many colors. Get as big as possible if used as a background. "Rub-on" lettering is available in different sizes. Great for titles: Stencils for lettering; felt pens, markers; felt pieces are available in different colors. Great for background, especially when coins are in a protective case. You may also need: Typewriter, make sure the ribbon is new, or well inked; an unusual background can be a flag, map, newspaper.

Now that you have your materials gathered together, don't start cutting yet. Grab a piece of paper and draw a sketch of where you want everything to be placed on your display.

After you have your layout planned, it is finally time to bring everything together and construct your display. Of course, you will have to write down what you want to say, and will have to do some cutting and adjusting where you see fit, but you are now ready to "put it all together!"

The question is, when should you start planning a display?

The answer is, "now". One week before the coin show is usually too late. The time is now. Go through your coins, choose a subject to display, find out about its history. Give yourself time to work on it.

I hope that this helps you and will motivate you to do your best in making a display that you can be proud of.



TRIVIA TRIVIA! Honolulu Coin Club, Trivia!

Here is a chance to be a winner in the Honolulu Coin Club trivia. Twenty questions, each question is worth 5 points, with 100 points for a perfect score. Mail in your answers to the Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. Deadline for the contest is postmark December 31, 1986. Winners will be notified. In case of a tie, winner will be determined by earliest postmark. So, hand in your answers early. Good luck to all of you.

The prizes are: 1st prize — a BU silver dollar (date of our choice); 2nd prize — a 1964 proof set.

1. What was the last U.S. regular issued coin to use 13 stars as a principal part of its design?
2. Name the numismatic organization that was established in 1964 in Hawaii.
3. What is the Hawaiian "Hapaha" in numismatics?
4. What Hawaiian token was called "Hale Meli"?
5. Name the nuclear ship that was on one of the HSNA medals.
6. Where was the first wooden token introduced as a memento?
7. The mint mark "D" was used for Denver. What other U.S. mint used the letter "D"?
8. What was the meaning of "Stella", a \$4 gold piece?
9. On the 1909 Lincoln cent, what does V.D.B. stand for?
10. What early American coin has "American Congress, We are One"?
11. Where did the U.S. adopt the word, "cent"?
12. What is a Jackass note?
13. What U.S. coin has the inscription "4th Day of July, Anno Domini" written?
14. Name the nine fishes in the HSNA Hawaiian Fish Series.
15. What is on the reverse of the Honolulu Coin Club Kamehameha I wooden token?
16. How many stars are on the 1925 Saint-Gaudens double eagle?
17. What U.S. coin was Chief Black Fish on?
18. What U.S. coin is designed with the largest star and has the distinction of being the first U.S. coin of any type without some representation of Liberty on it?
19. What U.S. President had the idea of issuing a special coin in honor of the martyred 16th President?
20. What was the first U.S. coin to have the motto, "In God We Trust"?



COIN QUESTIONS

BY F. LOO

Send your questions to: Coin Collector

P.O. Box 61177 Honolulu, HI 96839-1177

Questions will be answered only by publication in this newsletter. All material sent will become the property of the writer of this column.)

Q. In the past issue you wrote about checking prices before buying any coins from newspaper/magazine advertisements. Before that, you wrote a warning about buying from hotel auctions run by out-of-state operators. Is there any place where I can buy coins that are properly graded at fair prices? (B.C.—Makiki)

Certainly, there are many such places. I will describe a few sources where I got fair deals from in the past, and sources where I learned a few lessons. Of course, other people may have had better or worse experiences from the same source. Therefore you should not take what I write as being the final word because the fairness of any transaction depends on the items and the individuals involved at that time. Values and people change, which could cause you to have a different perception for the same transaction.

1) Relatives, friends and co-workers. Although this is obvious, many collectors do not take advantage of this source. A lot of people who do not collect have coins which they found or which were given to them. When they find out that you're a collector, these people are often willing to sell to you at your price!

2) Coin club meetings. Other coin collectors often have extra items or coins that are no longer of interest to them. These collectors are usually willing to sell such coins at below market values to another collector. Also, the auctions held at club meetings can yield some great bargains if you're the only bidder on a particular item. Finally, coin club meetings are the best place to learn about coins because you can usually find an experienced collector willing to share his knowledge with you.

3) Coin shows. There are usually 4-5 shows held in Honolulu during a year. Generally, these shows are advertised in section number 740 of the newspaper classified ads about a week before. The main advantage of a show is being able to compare prices and quality among the different dealers present. If you are not experienced enough to know a good buy at first sight, then the wise strategy would be a quick look around once, and then return to the dealers whose prices and quality seemed most acceptable. Tell the dealer what you're interested in and the quality you desire. This will save time for both you and the dealer because the dealer will probably bring out all the items you'd be interested in. You will then be able to make the best selection from what he brings out and not have to search through his entire display. In fairness to dealers, remember that they have to pay to be there as a dealer, so their time is like money. Use their time wisely, and they will probably give you a better deal in appreciation.

4) Coin shops. If you enjoy the hobby of coin collecting, then you should support your local coin shops because without them there would not be any convenient place to buy your supplies, catalogs and that special coin that came in just the other day. And if you're a good customer, sometimes the shop-owner will hold a newly acquired item for you, give you a first look, and probably sell it cheaper to you,

than to other non-regulars. You are more likely to get better personal service at a shop than would be possible at a coin show, auction or through mail-order buying.

5) Mail order. The biggest disadvantage of buying through the mail is that you don't get to see what you're ordering, until you receive it. Although there are times when you can get coins on approval without paying beforehand, these coins will generally be priced higher to compensate the seller for the handling and risks involved. Of course, mail order places usually promise a refund if you're dissatisfied and return the coins, but then the following problems can arise: a) lengthy time and lots of correspondence to get your money back, b) loss or damage of the items you mailed back, or c) the dealer going out of business, or just refusing to reply to you. Ask any long-time collector about their experiences with mail order and you'll probably be told that the occasional good buy is heavily outweighed by the over-graded or over-priced material which had to be sent back. Check with any of the local coin shops or coin club members before ordering through the mail and you may save yourself money and grief.

6) Mail auctions. The comments made above for mail order are applicable for mail auctions. However, there are many large national auction companies who are very fair and reputable. And the range of material available through national auctions will certainly be more than what could be available locally. But remember, unless it is a mail auction auction floor who would have seen the coins being auctioned. Therefore, if your bid wins over a floor bidder, then this means that either there weren't enough floor bidders interested in your item, or that they felt that it wasn't worth as much as you bid. You would then wonder if your winning bid might have been too high!

Once in a while, there may be individuals or small companies who may conduct mail auction sales and be very fair in their grading and return policies. As the number of their customers increase, their practices and grading may decline, maybe due to a change in management or "failing eyesight." Therefore, although you may get some good deals in the beginning, be always careful when dealing with anyone thousands of miles away.

7) Swap meets, flea markets, antique/bottle shows, etc. Some of my best friends and long time coin collectors often sell their coins at places where individuals can set up to sell. If you know the background of these individuals, then you would be safe in buying from them. On the other hand, individuals who do not have good reputations may also set up at such places. So be careful! How can you tell the difference? Talk to them, evaluate their background, sincerity and sense of fairness. Be especially wary if the person is only selling bargains.

In conclusion, if you know your values and how to grade, then you can find good buys wherever coins are sold. If you are a new collector, then try to find out more about the person selling the coins. The higher priced the coins are, the more you should know about who the seller is. Just because the seller might be a PhD, M.D., C.L.U., M.B.A., C.F.P., etc., does not mean that he's going to give you a fair deal. It could be all BS.

Now, a final thought from a dear friend and long time collector who passed away a few years ago. He advised against buying a coin just because it's cheap. In a fatherly way, he told me "Good coin not cheap, cheap coin, not good."

Next issue: What is all this fuss about grading and certificates?



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